

WINNEBAGO COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

Regular Meeting, Monday, February 12, 2024 – 8:00 A.M.  
At the Hanson Nature Center, 41600 170<sup>th</sup> Ave., Hwy 69 N.  
Leland, IA 50453

Minutes

Board Members

Tim Missal  
Julie Hagenson (by phone)  
Jeff Schmidt  
Mark Flatrud

Absent

Nancy Helm

Staff Present

Robert Schwartz, Director  
Lisa Ralls, Naturalist  
Nicole Templeton, Natural Res. Tech.

Guest

Susan Smith, Board of Supervisors

Chairman Missal called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M.

Mark Flatrud was introduced as a new Board member replacing Mike Korth.

The February 12, 2024 meeting agenda was approved with a motion from Hagenson, seconded by Schmidt. Unanimous. Motion carried.

The January 8, 2024 Board meeting minutes were approved with a motion from Helm, seconded by Hagenson. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Work and budget reports were reviewed.

Nature Center updates:

Schwartz will be meeting with the architect and Kingland Construction Services February 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss retainage fees and correcting deficiencies including support posts and concrete.

The building Certificate of Substantial Completion was approved with a motion from Missal, seconded by Schmidt. Unanimous. Motion carried. Missal asked when the warranty date started for the center. Schwartz will confirm the date with the architect but believed it started November 1, 2023. The same date as the Certificate of Substantial Completion was approved. Schwartz will contact Martin Gardner Architect to inform them that Missal is currently the Board Chairman for any documents needing signatures.

A grant request has been submitted by the FWCCF for the purchase of nature center furnishings. The grant, if approved, would cover up to 75% of the total estimated cost. Young Plumbing & Heating will be donating a water softener system for the center.

There was discussion about hiring a mural artist and signage at the center.

Nature Center hours of operation and building capacity were discussed. Starting Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> a series of open houses will take place from 1-4PM for the public to come and see the new center. Additionally dates include: March 1<sup>st</sup>, March 8<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> from 1-4PM will be open to the public.

Under personnel discussion, Schwartz informed the Board that it is his intent to resign his position as Executive Director, effective July 31, 2024. After discussion, there was a motion from Missal, seconded by Hagenson, to accept Schwartz's letter of resignation with regrets, effective July 31, 2024. Unanimous. Motion carried. Schwartz will provide Director hiring information at the March 11<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

Payment of monthly bills was approved with a motion from Schmidt, seconded by Missal. Unanimous. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:39 A.M. with a motion from Hagenson, seconded by Missal. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Schwartz  
Executive Director

---

Chairman

---

Secretary